

Do not let the Bell "Wolves" own the chicken coop you already allow them to dominate. Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be wholly to blame for the travesty. DO NOT DO IT. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country

Here in Minnesota, the behaviour of U.S. West has been so egregious that the state Public Utilities Commission considered banning them from doing business in the state. Though I pay line access fees to U.S. West for my internet services via dialup to an ILEC from my residence in Bemidji, the only DSL provider that would serve me at my location is a local telephone cooperative that is also the only cable television provider that would be able to serve me...

The rates for DSL are so prohibitive in my area that I maintain an office in the Twin Cities where I am able to get more bandwidth and IP addresses than the DSL provider in my area is capable or willing to sell me. In Bemidji, the local telecom providers have failed to even provide me with a quote for T1 service, despite many requests over several months.

We need stronger enforcement of the 1996 telecommunications act, not a dilution of its power, because the benefits of this law are just beginning to be felt in underserved areas in both the inner cities and across rural America. As it is, there are monopolies involving both the provisioning of cable and PSTN services in many areas.